

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01507 111846Z

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R 111655Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0251

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 1507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, DR

SUBJECT: SECOND ANNUAL SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES

1. THE RECENT PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR ON THE CONTEMPORARY U.S. SPONSORED BY THE DOMINICAN ASSOCIATION OF EX-GRANTEES WAS AN EVEN GREATER SUCCESS THAN ITS PIONEER PREDECESSOR IN 1973. THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR AGAIN TOOK PLACE MOST APPROPRIATELY IN THE SANTO DOMINGO BINATIONAL CENTER. IT CONSISTED OF 10 10-HOUR COURSES CONDUCTED BY NINE U.S. UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND AUTHOR JAMES MICHENER. A WELL-RECEIVED INNOVATION THIS YEAR WAS THE ADDITION OF FIVE AFTERNOON SESSIONS ON "THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN SOCIAL CHANGE" WHICH WERE HANDLED ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS BY FOUR PROFESSORS AND MR. MICHENER. PLANS ARE TENTATIVELY BEING MADE TO REPRODUCE THE FIVE "YOUTH" LECTURES AS A COLLECTION THAT COULD BE OF USE TO OTHER POSTS.

2. OVER 200 EX-GRANTEES AND PROFESSIONALS ATTENDED THE SEMINAR, INCLUDING ABOUT 50 FACULTY MEMBERS FROM THE HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC, LEFTIST-LEANING AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD). AMONG THE LATTER WERE SEVERAL WHO HAVE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED ASPECTS OF USG POLICIES IN THE PAST. ANOTHER PROMINENT ATTENDEE WAS EX-GRANTEE ALFONSO MORENO MARTINEZ, WHO UNTIL SIX MONTHS AGO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (PRSC).

3. MEMBERS OF THE SEMINAR FACULTY ALSO FOUND TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (UCMM) IN SANTIAGO, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST IN SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, AND THE PEDRO HENRIQUEZ URENA UNIVERSITY (UNPHU) WHERE FOUR U.S. AND THREE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTO 01507 111846Z

DOMINICAN PROFESSORS CONDUCTED AN EVENING PANEL DISCUSSION ON

YOUTH BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 350.

4. AT THE CLOSING CEREMONIES ON MARCH 29, FRANK MARINO HERNANDEZ, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING SOCIOLOGISTS, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE DOMINICAN PARTICIPANTS. HE PRAISED THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE SEMINAR, ITS BROAD SCOPE, EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION, AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IT HAD MADE TO DOMINICAN-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING. HIS AUDIENCE SEEMED TO AGREE WITH HERNANDEZ WHEN HE PROPOSED A THEME THAT MIGHT SERVE AS A MOTTO FOR THIS AND FUTURE SEMINARS: "ENTENDIMIENTO ATRAVES DEL CONOCIMIENTO," OR "UNDERSTANDING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE."

5. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR HAS OBSERVED THAT HE FOUND THIS TYPE OF SEMINAR THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL METHOD OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH EX-GRANTEES (ALWAYS A PROBLEM) THAT HE HAS ENCOUNTERED IN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF FOREIGN SERVICE EXPERIENCE. IN TRYING TO FOLLOW UP ON GRANTEES' ACTIVITIES SYSTEMATICALLY AFTER THEIR RETURN, HE HAS TRIED VARIOUS DEVICES ELSEWHERE WITHOUT SIMILAR SUCCESS.

6. A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SEMINAR (WITH SAMPLES OF WIDE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE) IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.  
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